(d) and (e) The new 2006 estimates released by the National AIDS Control Organization, indicate that national adult HIV prevalence in India is 0.36%, which corresponds to an estimated 2 million to 3.1 million people living with HIV in the country. These estimates are more accurate and reliable as it is based on better data from a large number of sources using internationally recommended methods, as they are based on an expanded surveillance system and a revised and enhanced methodology. Global experience from surveys in 30 countries show that sentinel surveillance data tend to produce higher estimate.

As part of its continuing effort to know its epidemic better, the Indian Government has greatly expanded and improved its surveillance system in recent years and increased the number of population groups covered. In 2006, the government created 400 new sentinel surveillance sites and facilitated National Family Health Survey-3, which is a population-based survey.

The use of additional data sources in addition to the improved methodologies have resulted in a lower and more robust estimate.

Bird-flu affected States

87. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many States in the North-East are affected by bird-flu;

(b) whether bird-flu has spread to other States; and

(c) if so, whether any human casualties, both fatal and non-fatal, have been reported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Only one State in North-East has been affected by Bird flu which was notified in Village Chingmeirong, East Imphal district of Manipur on 25.7.2007. The disease appears to be limited and restricted to a small area without further evidence of spread.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No human casualties fatal or otherwise have been reported.

Health education package in Schools

88. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is proposing a health education package in schools;

(b) if so, what would be the focus of the package; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), a broad framework for implementation of School Health Programme has been circulated to all the States/UTs for incorporation in the State Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) which provides for innovative school health